

## CITY HALL CUPIDS DOOMED TO LOSE WEDDING BOWER

Marriage Chapel Declared  
by Curran To Be Nothing  
but "Hell Hole."

## MOVES ON TUESDAY FOR ITS ABOLITION

Three Men There Drawing Fees  
Illegally—Scully May Be  
Appointed "Marryer."

So numerous have been complaints about conditions in the marriage "chapel" in the basement of City Hall that Tuesday a resolution will be introduced before the Board of Aldermen to close it and remove the "attaches."

"It's a hell-hole and should be wiped out," said Henry H. Curran, majority leader of the Board of Aldermen yesterday.

The main reason why steps will be taken to remove this gloomy "cupid's bower" out of City Hall is that protests have been pouring in for months to the Mayor, Leonard M. Wallstein, Commissioner of Accounts, that persons married there by aldermen have been subjected to demands for money for services performed by the men who have been permitted to operate in the room.

For almost half a century the marriage "chapel" has been used by aldermen to unite couples who seemed to think that a wedding in City Hall was the certain road to a happy married career. On March 19, 1886, the Board of Aldermen adopted a resolution setting aside Room 33 as a marriage "chapel" and also empowering the clerk of the board, the City Clerk, to appoint two persons to be in charge without salary and upon the understanding and direction that they be allowed to demand from the contracting parties no fee whatever, but to state to them that any payment made by them for their marriage certificate is wholly voluntary.

**Sullivan Man Ships In.**

When Patrick J. Scully became City Clerk more than twelve years ago he appointed James Weldon and Paul to the position. They still are there. Eleven years ago "Little Tim" Sullivan, whose district Weldon and Paul came wanted a job for "Bull" Long, who had been his messenger boy. So, though there was no legal provision for it and the validity of the aldermanic resolution now operating is questioned, Sullivan slid his former messenger boy into the "chapel." While Long has since been favored by success in promoting private and in theatrical ventures with his intimate friend, Alderman John J. White, he still holds the title of messenger boy, it is officially styled.

Not only is Long's job without legal justification, but there are two other men acting as "interpreters" in the bureau, making three persons who apparently have no right to be there. Tom Scully and "Count" Jim Benedetto are the interpreters. The "Count" had a boothstand for a time after he was ousted from the work of enlisting the seekers after matrimony, but the aldermen took his stand private from him because they feared his marriage bureau work would take all his time.

When complaints reached Commissioner Wallstein that men and women married in the bureau were being asked for money he began an investigation. He knew that the two men appointed by Scully were supposed to confine themselves to making out certificates and filing a record of marriages, for which certain persons privileged to meet in the bureau, the bridegroom or bride chose to volunteer it. The Commissioner was handicapped in his investigation by the fact that he had to use men and women who were not going to get married.

"And the bureau men seemed to right shy of the people I sent down there," said Wallstein last night. "Furthermore, all of the complaints I received came by mail and were not signed."

**Urged Its Abolition.**

Finding that he could not get to the bottom of the situation, Commissioner Wallstein, September 1st last, sent word of his investigation with recommendations that the bureau be "abolished" to George McAneny, then Acting Mayor. Mr. McAneny since that time has not seen fit to give the Wallstein report publicity. It was through Commissioner Brune that the matter became public yesterday.

An odd feature of City Hall marriages is that the pleasure of performing them is not lost but few aldermen who like the attractions of the bureau are of Tammany connections. For years up to January 1, 1914, Alderman "Jimmy" Smith, who on that day ceased to retain his membership in the board, officiated at practically all of the weddings in the bureau. Since then John J. Reardon, Alderman from the 20th District, who is known as "Happy Jack," has been forced to take up that unpleasant work.

For years Tammany, leader of the minority in the board, denied yesterday that the "marrying alderman" was designated by any one. Mr. Dowling also said he favored the retention of the bureau.

Majority Leader Curran said:

"We have been working on this matter for months. That bureau is worse

than the Black Hole of Calcutta. A Dickens, after an afternoon in that room, could write another 'Black House.' It sends married people from there horribly depressed."

The resolution to rescind the resolution of 1886 will be introduced by Alderman William F. Quinn, of the 15th District. Its introduction will provoke a fight between the Fusion and Tammany aldermen which may have serious effect on other measures to be taken up.

**Scully Suggests Reform.**

Long was not at all pleased by the situation. He said he knew nothing about the circumstances under which he entered the bureau, and he denied that conditions there warranted criticism.

City Clerk Scully said he was unaware that anything was wrong until he had no enlightenment comment to make on the fact that five men are permitted to work in the bureau.

"Don't bring me into this," he said. "I'm a plain man."

He said he favored a direct supervision over the men in the bureau and then said:

"If given statutory authority I should be willing to perform the marriages here in the Marriage License Bureau, letting that work in the other bureaus go to the deputy city clerks there. The license could be issued and the ceremony performed all for the same \$1 charged for the license. Or a fee, to go to the city, could be fixed."

A city "marryer" is favored by Alderman Curran, who says that if the Quinn resolution is adopted he will ask legislation at Albany establishing a legalizing marrying official, whose fixed fee will go to the city. Commissioner Wallstein approves of this.

## SUING J. E. CARTER, WIFE ACCUSES "IDA"

Plaintiff, Who Seeks Separation  
from Promoter, Calls Unnamed  
Rival "Stately Woman."

A "stately woman," who is described only as "Ida," is largely blamed for the trouble between Mrs. Katherine D. Carter, of 2124 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, and her husband, James Edward Carter, a promoter, who has been interested in a large enterprise with Charles M. Schwab, George J. Gould and others.

Mrs. Carter has filed a suit in the Supreme Court for a separation, she said Carter asked her to sue him for a divorce. "Ida" was discovered by Mildred, the daughter of the couple. Mrs. Carter said that her husband left her in 1902 to go West, as he said. From that year until 1908 he returned home only once a year, and then remained only a short time, saying that he had business in Philadelphia or nearby cities.

One day Mildred saw her father in Broadway, near 102d Street. She followed him to an apartment house, where she found his name in a letter box. The girl investigated and found him directly to her father's apartment, where she said she found "Ida," whose existence had become known to Mrs. Carter through the receipt of a letter addressed to Carter with the salutation, "Dear Ida" inside.

Mrs. Carter told the court, in applying for a separation yesterday, that her husband was "particularly successful" as a promoter, and that she has tried to support herself and daughter by painting.

Carter said that he and his wife could not live together and had tacitly agreed to live apart. He said that for two years his business had not been good and that he has been paying Mrs. Carter all he could afford to.

**WORTH \$300,000,  
CAN'T RAISE \$10,000**

Woman Gets Delay in Step-father's Suit to Force  
Partition.

Mrs. Anna May Smith owns a fourth interest in Manhattan real estate valued at \$1,200,000, and cannot raise \$10,000 to pay the interest on mortgages. Mrs. Smith yesterday obtained an order from Justice George L. Gage, the presiding justice of the Supreme Court, staying the sale of the property in a partition action brought by George Yung, her stepfather.

The sale was advertised for yesterday, but Mrs. Smith told the court that if the property was partitioned at this time, with the present condition of the real estate market, she would be fortunate to realize even \$10,000 for her interest. She said the sale was advertised to sacrifice her interest, and she feared that the property would be bought in by her stepfather.

Mr. Smith said he had been unable to sell the \$10,000, but had been promised by his mother, Justice Gage, granted an order postponing the sale for two weeks.

The properties in which Mrs. Smith has a one-fourth interest are 180 West End Avenue, 204 Amsterdam Avenue, 344 and 346 Lenox Avenue, 324 to 330 Lenox Avenue, 44 Lenox Avenue, 95 East Fourth Street, 435 East Twelfth Street, 2101 Third Avenue, 74 West 122d Street, 83 West 132d Street and 204 East Seventeenth Street.

**ONE MINUTE,  
PLEASE!**

A memorial meeting in honor of Narcisse Leven has been planned for to-morrow evening at the Educational Alliance, 197 East Broadway. Jacob H. Schiff, Louis Marshall and others will speak.

Michael Medvets, of 229 East Street, fell under a Sixth Avenue car yesterday afternoon. When an emergency wagon came and jacked up the car, Medvets crawled out and asked for his pipe which he had dropped.

The American Jewish Historical Society will hold its twenty-third annual meeting Sunday and Monday at the Hotel McAlpin.

Failure to collect dues at its regular meeting, Tuesday night, saved the Ladies' Amalgamated Garment Cutters' Association, with thousand members, during a period of the door of the small safe in the association's rooms, at 7 West Twenty-first Street, yesterday morning, expecting to find the dues, but got only \$40.

Several hundred Suffolk County farmers, stockholders of the Long Island Potato Exchange, decided to put the association into voluntary bankruptcy at a meeting, at Riverhead.

On complaint of Mrs. Rose Fink, of 67th St. Ann's Avenue, who said he had followed her to her cousin's house and in the vestibule had thrown his arms about her and kissed her, James Sequilia, of 355 East 158th Street, was sent to the workshop for thirty days by Magistrate Levy.

While his father, dying from blood poisoning, watched the tragedy from a window of his home Brevo Orioello, ten years old, of 28 Ellison Street, Paterson, N. J., was killed by an Erie train at the Riverside crossing.

A preliminary to revising industry in Belgium, the Rockefeller Foundation

## Mme. Calve Packs Comfort Kits for Soldiers in Her Native Land



MME. CALVE PACKING KITS FOR FRENCH SOLDIERS.  
UNDERWOOD & UNDERWOOD

"In France we say 'Lafayette—notre et voire,'" said Miss Emma Calve yesterday afternoon while she was visiting the store at 17 East Thirty-ninth Street, where the Lafayette Fund packs its kits for the French soldiers. "Lafayette ours et vous!" That is why there is such a strong bond of sympathy between my people and yours."

The famous opera singer had just been helping put a woolen muffler and heavy pair of socks into a canvas sack that will reach some one in the trenches fighting for her native land.

"I am trying to help to receive 10,000 women have depended for livelihood," says Mr. Rose. "Belgium has all the necessary raw material, and if it could sell even a small part of the stock now on hand this would provide funds with which to finance the business in all lace-making centres. The only thing needed to start this industry and to keep going is to find a foreign market for the lace and to obtain authority to export the finished product."

Subscriptions to the Belgian Relief Fund yesterday amounted to \$20,000, bringing the total up to \$931,652.77. Among the contributors were E. W. F. Mitchell & Co., \$10,000; Chapman & Seaman, \$7,207; H. F. Bachman & Co., \$7,101; Wagner, \$6,000; Chapman & Seaman, \$4,500; Tappin & Co., \$3,555.

The assets include 5,000 shares of West Tonawanda Consolidated Mining Company, fifteen shares preferred and seven common of Long Island Motor Parkway stock, one share of stock of the Dunwoodie Country Club, and a claim against U. A. Littrice for \$6,426.

In the petition filed the principal claims are: Mitchell & Co., \$27,463; Murray Mitchell, \$16,000; Chapman & Seaman, \$7,207; H. F. Bachman & Co., \$7,101; Wagner, \$6,000; Chapman & Seaman, \$4,500; Tappin & Co., \$3,555.

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